

# Horse sense

By

ERNEST V. JOINER



● This is our final bout with the ballot measures to be voted on by the people at the general election, Nov. 5.

No. 14-A. This proposed constitutional amendment would require that each person holding an elective county office; each member of a county planning, zoning or development commission; and each chief executive officer of the county who performs the duties of a principal administrator, be required to file statements of economic interest as provided in Chapter 72, Oregon Laws 1974. If this amendment is approved, any person holding office (elective or appointed to an administrative post) would be required to make a full disclosure of his financial holdings, annual income and apparently, bank accounts and valuables. I cannot think of a better example of invasion of privacy than this forcible prying into the intimate economic affairs of an individual who serves on agencies such as the planning commission or school board (with no pay). What a man's bank account has to do with his ability to discharge the duties of a public office is hard to understand. If Nelson Rockefeller is going to be confirmed as Vice-President of the United States (which he is), isn't all this prying into his private financial affairs going for naught? But his case is different. No. 14-A pertains to county officials only. Nobody in the county is giving away \$26 million to friends and political cronies for whatever reasons. No official of this county is giving any money to friends or political cronies that can have any bearing on his ability to run his office.

● One of the biggest problems facing Morrow County, and all Oregon cities and counties, is enlisting the aid of qualified people to serve on the many boards, commissions and agencies that unfortunately exist. It requires a great deal of public spirit and selflessness for a person to spend long hours of work on these boards with no compensation and little gratitude from those he purportedly serves. So, to require him to make public personal affairs that are patently none of the public's business, and perhaps to embarrass and humiliate him, is almost certain to result in mass resignations of those already holding these thankless, payless jobs and insure that few other than insensitive and unqualified persons will offer themselves as replacements. If Judge Paul Jones owns a ranch worth \$100,000, what bearing does it have on his ability to do his job? The position of Gene Pierce, president of the Bank of Eastern Oregon, affects more people, perhaps, than the office of Judge Jones. Must we now require Gene Pierce to bare his personal financial statement to the hundreds and perhaps thousands of people whose interests are tied to his banking operation? As a sop to the curious? Or to keep good men out of public life? This is a preposterous amendment proposal and deserves overwhelming defeat.

● No. 14-B is the same as 14-A, except that it would force the same financial disclosures from officers and appointees of the city of Heppner, and its equally silly. I am a member of the city planning commission, giving my time without pay, as my contribution to civic betterment. But if I were required to file a financial disclosure and look forward to people pawing through matters which are none of their business, I would promptly resign. My assets and liabilities are confidential. So are yours. I hope we can keep it that way. No on this one, too!

● Now that Willow Creek Dam is kaput, there should be renewed local interest in the Heppner Water Control District's activities. This group is responsible for flood control measures in Shobe Canyon, through construction and maintenance of dikes and diversion terraces. During last year's heavy rains these dikes and terraces held up, stopped the flow of runoff waters, thus preventing almost certain flooding. The district's legal authorization runs out in 1975 unless voters go to the polls Nov. 5 and renew its life by providing a tax base of 50 cents per \$1,000 valuation (which is already what the tax is, so there will be no tax increase if HWCD is continued).

● The HWCD doesn't get many headlines. Few people even know it's there. It operates quietly and efficiently, and on \$6,250 a year—some kind of a record, considering what it does. In addition to diversion terraces, dikes and debris basins to prevent flooding in Heppner, it also saves the farmers' land, increases production and puts more water underground for irrigation purposes. HWCD operates the automatic storm warning devices recently installed in Balm Fork and Shobe Canyon by the National Weather Service. It is charged with the responsibility of maintaining all its land treatment projects, as well as keeping clear the creek channels through Heppner. If voters agree, the HWCD proposes to treat the remainder of the 67,840 acres of land inside its boundaries—and do it at a total cost of only \$268,000 (with the Soil Conservation Service paying 75 per cent of the cost)—about half of that \$450,000 a spendthrift federal government spent in the most recent "study" of the feasibility of a dam on Willow Creek!

● One of the nice features of controlling flooding in Heppner through the HWCD is that we know from experience that it will do what it says; and that what it does, stands up. The district is managed by Dick Wilkinson, chairman, Claude Buschke, Gene Pierce, Don Bennett and Marcel Jones. When these people tell you something you can believe it. They are your friends and neighbors and are not likely to lie about what HWCD does, steal your tax money, or use their positions as directors to acquire power and prestige. They are here where you can lay a hand on all of them at any time. After having been assaulted by those liars and thieves in Washington over Willow Creek Dam, I'd vote the HWCD the \$6,250 a year it needs for another three years just to know there are some honest men, honestly motivated, here working for us. I hope voters will vote to extend HWCD's life for another three years.

● Up in Washington we don't get the kind of results and kind consideration we get from locally controlled groups like the Heppner Water Control District. While President Ford was televising his patriotic appeal that every American family live within its budget to help cure inflation, he was attending a \$1,000 a plate Republican fund-raising dinner. It is a bit obtuse to hear Ford speak of living within budgets, what with him presiding over a sizeable "family" that has not lived within its budget for years and which refuses to live within its budget. And we have our Congressmen coming back home to point out that inflation is our No. 1 enemy, that everybody must spend less and be taxed more if we are to survive. And while they are thus engaged, they quietly raised their salaries from \$42,500 to \$52,800 a year. They didn't have the guts to call it a pay raise and face the national ire. They merely authorized each member's office expense allowance upped \$9,280, an inflation factor of more than 50 per cent. It is this kind of deception, greed and callous disregard for the tax-burdened American people that has justly earned Congressmen the contempt they now enjoy.



Through The Eye Of A Needle

## The mail pouch

EDITOR:

News stories perpetuate a misconception—an error in fact—of a type which may support the growing public distrust of the nation's press.

They state that the projects of the CIA "are reviewed by a 40-member committee in the government continually, and there is oversight by committees in both the House and Senate."

First, let's straighten out that "40-member committee" business. Despite its name, the "40 Committee" has only five members, not 40 as stated: State's Henry Kissinger and Joseph J. Sisco, CIA Director William E. Colby, Defense's William P. Clements and Joint Chief's Gen. George S. Brown.

The name of this group has nothing to do with membership numbers. It is derived from National Security Council Intelligence Decision Memorandum No. 40, which established the committee in its present form in 1969. Most of the "out of control" action was prior thereto.

Finally, in regard to congressional oversight committees, this apparently is also a misconception. Ted Szulc, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, made the following observations in a recent article appearing in New York magazine: "There is no known instance of the 40 Committee—or its chairman (Kissinger)—consulting with any congressional committee about what it orders the CIA to do."

As you can see, misinformation could lead the uninformed to a false sense of security. After all, with all those checks and counterchecks, how could anything go wrong?

But it already has! Proof lies in research of the Kennedy assassinations and the Warren Commission false "one gun" report—and the Watergate set-up conspiracy.

Over the last two decades the coalition of juggernaut corporate internationalists and zealot militarists hiding under CIA guise has contrived secretly to rule us.

But not without traumatic struggles within their out-of-control secret hierarchy which has resulted in one president assassinated, one president forced to resign, one presidential candidate killed, one presidential candidate wounded, one candidate for president (Muskie) sabotaged—and now Richard the Great Commie Hunter (and one of the original sponsors of CIA) has been destroyed by his own anti-detente boy's trap set-up for him at Watergate for betraying them.

To cap the climax, Charles Colson, Nixon's hatchet man, now verifies "They (CIA) killed Dorothy Hunt." To do this, 43 innocent people died on Flight 533, United Airlines—and no doubt the nine and sixteen minute tape erasures dealt with that blackmail problem.

The ironic part is that the Supreme Court ruled this year that the Warren Commission report, rammed through by Nixon's member Gerald Ford, cannot be opened for 75 years—which also means that the F.B.I. is an accessory to the fact.

Why, you say? Very simple in fact, for Diem, John Kennedy (Oswald and Ruby) and Robert Kennedy were killed to keep the Vietnam "oil" war from being stopped.

CHARLES A. SPEARS, Sherman, Tex.



## CROSSROADS REPORT

DEAR EDITOR:

I see where Ralph Nadar, the self-appointed people savior, has prescribed a Law to make us citizens go to the polls and vote in all elections.

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If this does not produce results which please him, he may conjure up a Law to make us recall votes which displease him and do them over.

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Obviously, when we have a Law requiring every citizen to vote in every election, it is no giant step to a Law requiring every vote to make Nadar happy.

D. E. SCOTT, Crossroads, U.S. A.

## quote/unquote

"I am leading a nation of drunkards. . . . Zambians have hit the bottle so much that the situation is going from bad to worse. I don't want to be part and parcel of a nation of drunkards. I would rather die than accept the responsibility of running a drunken nation. If you Zambians fail to heed my warning, I am definitely going to quit."—Kenneth Kaunda, President of Zambia.

## Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

Ever now and again you send me a note that somebody wrote you about my little piece, and I always read em with interest.

That complaint from a school teacher about my spelling was kinda hard on an old man, special one that has always figured it ain't the words so much as it is gitting the idee across.

I saw this magazine article some years back that told how much time and effort the Coca-Cola Company spends trying to git you newspaper editors to spell Coke with a big C. The company says when you write it coke you mean any soda pop, but when you write it Coke you are talking about one particular kind of pop. You fellows excuse yourself by saying you have to go by your particular style of using big and little letters, so why can't I git by with saying I use my style of spelling.

This piece said that Webster's Dictionary got so mixed up about capital letters they come out a few years back with a edition that had ever word in lower case but God.

I onct knowed a feller that worked on a newspaper that used a style where you didn't put a capital letter on but two words, God and the Democratic Party. The way things is going now, I reckon the Devil and the Republicans can sue cause their rights has been denied.

The Coke folks onct wrote to John Stineback and complained cause he had talked about their drink with a little C in one of his books. He told em if a word like coke could be universal known, they ought to be proud, that it was the real small words that think they got to be put in capitals to be important.

As fer spelling, I recall that Sir Walter Raleigh that come over from England and discovered North Carolina made a habit of spelling his name so many different ways nobody could figger how to name places and things after him. That shows imagination in a man, and one of the big troubles with education in this country, Mister Editor, is that we git in a rut and we think its a groove and we stay there. We need some Walter Rolly's in the schoolhouse, is my opinion.

Actual, the thought is what counts. I recollect the story of the feller in the factory that wouldn't give a cent to the United Fund. All the other workers give, and the plant was trying to be 100 per cent givers. They all begged him to chip in a dime, a quarter, anything, but he wouldn't budge. The boss called him in and told him if he didn't make some kind of donation, he was fired. The feller pulled out a \$5 bill and said that was the first time anybody had told him what a good thing the United Fund is in a way he could understap.

In your business you got to be careful with words, cause a heap of people depend on you. I recall the time you got the letter from a feller that had lost his watch and had run a lost-and-found ad. He said it worked quick, cause the next day he found the watch in his other suit.

Yours truly, MAYOR ROY

## Drug arrest . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

too. They just haven't been caught by the law."

"I had everything going for me," he shook his head. "I had no need or craving for pot. While pot is not addictive, a person can have a mental addiction for it. But I didn't. I smoked it because it seemed to be the thing to do; everybody was doing it. But it won't happen again. I've learned my lesson. Furthermore, my friends understand, and they don't offer pot to me any more."

"I just wish," he mused, "that I could erase the last year of my life."

When Darrel was arrested his father told him he was "On his own," that he would not provide an attorney to defend him. In short, he got into the mess without any help and he could get out of it by himself. His attorney, Bob Abrams, has been appointed by the

court to defend him. One of these days, he said, he is going to "get his head screwed on right" and start living again. He hopes to go to college next year, either at Blue Mountain in Pendleton or a college in Portland—if he isn't doing time in prison. Darrel spends his days at work, 12 hours a day, and sometimes at night. It helps to keep him from brooding over his trouble. His boss is understanding and sympathetic, as are his friends and family.

How does he feel about his father "turning him in?" "Legally, my father didn't have any other choice. He's a disciplinarian, and strict, and somehow it's difficult for us to talk. But I wish that before he turned me in he could have sat down with me and had a heart-to-heart talk."

## School board . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

there, it was indicated, as an extra teacher had been budgeted for, who was not hired.

The board voted to continue its policy of not belonging to the National School Boards Assn. because of the high cost in relation to the benefits to the district. Pauline Winter pointed out that membership fees for the state association, to which the board belongs, would be increasing this year. The board felt that state membership was of more benefit to the district.

District Superintendent Matt Doherty informed the board that two reports would be coming to the board for their consideration. Improved guidelines for the work-study program are being worked on at the present time. The long-range plan for career education is also nearing completion.

The next regular meeting of the board will be Monday, Nov. 18, at Riverside High School in Boardman, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

## BRUCE BERGSTROM NOW IN GERMANY

BITBURG, Germany—Airman First Class Bruce D. Bergstrom, son of Mrs. Marlene C. Peterson of Heppner, Ore., has arrived for duty at Bitburg AB, Germany. Airman Bergstrom, a weapon mechanic specialist with a unit of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe, previously served at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. The airman is a 1972 graduate of Heppner High School. His father, Bob C. Bergstrom, resides on Rt. 1, Heppner.

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